

Parthenium Awareness Program at ICAR-IIRR, Hyderabad

XVIX Parthenium Awareness Week was organized by ICAR-Indian Institute of Rice Research, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad from 16 to 22 August, 2024.

On 17th August, in the Research Farm of ICAR-IIRR, Rajendranagar, we have organized the Awareness program, in order to create awareness among the farm laborers, a talk about the harmful effects of Parthenium and control methods. Invading nature and spread in the country, its enormous capability of spreading, health issues and remedies, different available and possible control methods of manual, mechanical, chemical and biological control methods. The Director and the Field staff had participated in mechanical and manual removal of *Parthenium hysterophorus* in C Block, B Block and A block. The young vegetative stage plants of Parthenium were put in the compost pit and plants in flowering and seeding stage were heaped and burnt in open field outside the premises. The Parthenium was in 2-3 leaf stage to flowering and seed maturity stage. Live samples of *Cassia tora*, *Tephrosea purpurea*, Amaranthus, *Tagettaspp* with allelopathic effect on parthenium were shown and explained how they suppress the Parthenium (Fig 1).

On 20th August, Awareness program was organised in the Direct Sown Rice cultivating in Farmers Assembly Hall of 5 Villages in Rajapet Cluster of Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District of Telangana State. The Agril. Department Officials, Scientists of ICAR-IIRR, farmers have participated in the program. We have created awareness among the farmers and agril officials by showing Posters in Telugu, Live specimens of Allelopathic plants and herbicides. All the participants actively involved in removing Parthenium in surrounding field bunds, road side and Rythu Assembly Hall premises (Fig 2).

On 21st August, in the Research Farm of ICAR-IIRR, in Ramachandrapuram ICRISAT Campus, the Farm-In-Charge and Farm staff have organized the mechanical and manual removal of *Parthenium hysterophorus*. A poster in local language Telugu was displayed and explained to farm staff and farm laborers about the problem of Parthenium, its invading nature and spread in the country, its enormous capability of spreading, health issues and remedies, different control methods of manual, mechanical, chemical and biological control methods, integrated Parthenium Management in our research farms (Fig 3).

On 22nd August, Campaign on Chemical control by spraying of non-selective contact herbicide Gluphosinate Ammonium on Parthenium on field bunds, near Borewells, near Threshing floors, field drain channels and road side areas. The systemic nonselective herbicides Gluphosinate Ammonium, Paraquat+2,4-D were applied on Parthenium in the Farm Premises. At the end of Parthenium Awareness Week, the Research Farms of ICAR-IIRR, the DSR Village cluster Office Premises and surrounding roads were made free of Parthenium (Fig 1).



Fig 1. Parthenium Awareness Programme at ICAR-IIRR Research Farm.



Fig 2: Parthenium Awareness Programme at Rajapeta village, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri.



Fig 3: Parthenium Awareness Programme at ICRISAT Research Farm.